

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 4-35, and 49-55 are pending in the application, claims 3 and 36-48 having been canceled above and claims 49-55 having been added above. Claims 21-35 are allowed and claims 1-20 stand rejected. Independent claims 1, 9, and 15 have been amended above to claim further aspects of Applicant's invention. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 3.

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 21-35 are allowable.

**REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102**

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tabuchi. In making the rejection the Office Action sets forth, inter alia, that Tabuchi "teaches... a pit or series of pits 25a, 25b, 25c, 25d... [and that the] pits can be triangularly shaped." Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the reason that Tabuchi fails to disclose triangularly shaped pits. Rather, the "pits" 25a, 25b, 25c, 25d have a square shape (see Figs. 8A and 13A-D.) Nowhere does Tabuchi disclose a dry pit "wherein the dry pit has a triangular shape" as recited in dependent claim 3. Accordingly, Applicant has incorporated the subject matter of claim 3 into independent claim 1 and has canceled claim 3. Thus, Tabuchi fails to disclose each and every feature recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of independent claim 1, as well as claims 2 and 4-8 which depend therefrom, be withdrawn.

Turning to independent claims 9 and 15, Applicant has amended claim 9 above to recite that "the dry pit comprises an apex that intersects a wedge area of the groove". Likewise claim 15 has been amended to recite that "the dry pit comprises an apex that intersects a wedge area of the first groove and a wedge area of the second groove." Support for the added claim language may be found at least in Figs. 5 and 13-21 and the associated text of the substitute specification, which figures may also be found in the application as filed on pages 3/34 and 6/34-9/34. By way of example and not limitation, a dry pit comprising an apex that intersects a wedge area of a groove may have a triangular shape (Fig. 5), a generally triangular shape, such as an arrowhead (Fig. 13), or a diamond (Fig. 17), for example. In each case, the dry pit comprises an apex intersecting a wedge area of the groove. (The "wedge" area of a groove is described at least in the figure on page 1/34 and associated text of the application as filed.)

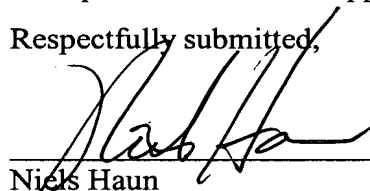
**Application No.: 10/071,261**  
**Docket No.: ACT - 181**

**Art Unit: 2874**  
**Examiner: Brian Healy**

Applicant respectfully submits that Tabuchi fails to disclose at least the feature of a dry pit comprising "an apex that intersects a wedge area of the groove" as variously recited in independent claims 9 and 15. Specifically, for example, the openings 25a, 25b, 25c, 25d do not include "an apex that intersects a wedge area of the groove" as recited in claims 9 and 15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections of independent claims 9 and 15, as well as claims 10-14 and 16-20, which depend respectively therefrom, be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the claims in this application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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